

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-11 COA-02 INT-08 COME-00

ACDA-19 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-04

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1421

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3258

COMICEDEFOR

USLOSACLANT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4151

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC, NATO

SUBJECT: UK-ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE

REF REYKJAVIK 1013

SUMMARY: ICELAND HAS ASKED NATO TO STOP RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS BY BRITISH NIMROD AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY OF ICELAND. IN REPLY, ACTING SYG PANSA TOLD ICELAND PERMREP THAT THESE FLIGHTS ARE NOT CONDUCTED BY NATO, BUT RATHER THEY ARE CONDUCTED BY NATIONAL AUTHORITIES. THUS, PANSA SAID, NATO, AS SUCH, IS POWERLESS. TO ACCEDE TO ICELAND'S REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

1. AT OPENING OF SEPTEMBER 5 COUNCIL MEETING SYG LUNS REVIEWED LACK OF PROGRESS IN FISHERIES DISPUTE AND REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL ONE NEW DEVELOPMENT.

2. LUNS SAID THAT ON AUGUST 31 ICELANDIC PERMREP (THOMPSSON MADE A FORMAL REQUEST TO DEPUTY SYG PANSA (THEN ACTING SYG) CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT NATO "STOP" THE MARITIME PATROL FLIGHTS IN THE VICINITY OF ICELAND BY BRITISH NIMROD AIRCRAFT. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH MILITARY EXPERTS, PANSA HAD REPLIED: "THESE FLIGHTS ARE NOT NATO FLIGHTS, BUT RATHER THEY ARE NATIONAL FLIGHTS CONDUCTED BY NATIONAL

AUTHORITIES. THUS, NATO, AS SUCH, CANNOT ACCEDE TO THE ICELANDIC REQUEST."

3. SEVERAL PERMREPS REQUESTED CLARIFICATION OF EXACTLY WHAT FLIGHTS WERE BEING DISCUSSED. LUNS ASKED THE UK REP (PECK) TO CLARIFY.

4. PECK DEFERRED TO A MORE AUTHORITATIVE COMMUNICATION ON THE NIMRODS WHICH HE SAID WOULD ARRIVE IN THE SYG'S OFFICE FROM LONDON LATER SEPTEMBER 5. ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY HE STATED THESE FLIGHTS HAVE NO NATO CONNECTION. HE SAID THEY ARE CONDUCTED BY THE UK GOVERNMENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND IN PROTECTION OF BRITISH TRAWLERS FISHING IN VICINITY OF ICELAND. PECK ALSO OBSERVED THAT THESE AIRCRAFT DO NOT INFRINGE ICELANDIC AIRSPACE IN ANY WAY.

5. ICELANDIC PERMREP DID NOT ARGUE THE NON-NATO CHARACTERIZATION OF THE FLIGHTS. HE SIMPLY NOTED THAT THE FREQUENCY OF NIMROD FLIGHTS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY AFTER THE FISHING TROUBLES STARTED. RUMSFELD.

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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